Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1.   (currently amended)   A method for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, said method comprising:

storing user preference information in the database including a list of functions defined by a user of the at least one client system for inclusion within a function menu, wherein each function is associated by the user with at least one universal resource locator (URL) and a computer-implemented command for performing the associated function,

wherein the computer-implemented command is configured by the user to perform the associated function at at least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one associated URL; and

wherein the command comprises at least two separate processing requirements to perform the associated function;

displaying the function menu on the client system to prompt the user to select a desired function from the list of user-defined functions included within the function menu to apply the selected function to a selected object, wherein the selected object is an object included within an electronic document displayed on the at least one client system and ~~identified~~ selected by the user;

receiving, at the server system, the selected object and the selected function from the at least one client system;

processing the selected object by sequentially applying the at least two separate processing requirements to ~~applying~~ apply the selected function to the selected object at the server system to generate a processed object, the processing ~~further including~~ comprising:

retrieving from the database the at least one URL and the computer-implemented command associated with the selected function;

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executing a first one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command using the selected object to generate ~~the~~ a first processed object;

transmitting the first processed object from the server system to at least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one retrieved URL;

executing a second one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command based on the selected object to generate a second processed object;

transmitting the second processed object from the server system to the least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one retrieved URL;

receiving a processing result from the at least one remote vendor web server at the server system, the processing result generated by the at least one remote vendor web server based on the combination of the first and second processed ~~object~~ objects and including at least a resulting web page;

determining whether further processing of each processing result is necessary to complete the selected function; and

transmitting at least one of each processing result and another output to the client system.

2. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

processing at the client system the at least one of the resulting web page and other output; and

prompting the user to select a command to perform on the resulting web page.

3. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu further comprises selecting an object including at least one of text, a hyperlink, a picture, a sound file, a video file, and any selectable object included within the electronic document.

4. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu further comprises:

processing the selected object using optical character recognition (OCR);

extracting text from the selected object using OCR; and

transmitting at least a portion of the extracted text from the client system to the server system such that the server system processes the extracted text.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu further comprises utilizing a text-grabbing algorithm to select the object.

6. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu on the client system further comprises enabling the user to designate a first web site as a target web site for a first function included within the function menu, and associate a first computer-implemented command with the first function executable using the first web site, the first computer-implemented command formatted by the user of the at least one client system to perform a purchasing function at the target web site.

7. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu on the client system further comprises enabling the user to customize the function menu by selecting each function included within the function menu.

8. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the function menu on the client system further comprises displaying the function menu on the client system by utilizing at least one of a mouse, a keyboard, a track-ball, a joystick, a digitizing pad, a touch screen, a voice activation device, and any input device connected to the client system.

9. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein processing the selected object by applying the selected function at the server system further comprises:

applying the user preference information to the selected object, wherein the user preference information includes a first purchasing function associated with a first purchasing

command and a plurality of URLs, the ~~first~~ purchasing command formatted to purchase an item corresponding to the selected object based on a purchase price for the item; <u>and</u>

<u>wherein at least one of the first and second processing requirements comprises:</u>

communicating with a vendor web server corresponding to each of the plurality of URLs;

generating a processing result at each of the vendor web servers by processing the selected object;

transmitting the processing results from each of the vendor web servers to the server system; and

processing each of the processing results at the server system before transmitting at least one resulting web page and other output to the client system.

10. (currently amended) A network based system for retrieving information, said system comprising:

a client system comprising a user interface and a browser;

a centralized database for storing information; and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server system further configured to:

enable a user to input user preference information for storing in the database, the user preference information including a list of functions defined by the user for inclusion within a function menu, wherein each function is associated by the user with at least one universal resource locator (URL) and a computer-implemented command for performing the associated function, wherein the computer-implemented command is configured by the user to perform the associated function at at least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one associated URL;<u> and the computer-implemented command comprises at least two separate processing requirements to perform the associated function;</u>

enable the user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on said user interface;

display the function menu on said user interface to prompt the user to select a desired function from the list of user-defined functions included within the function menu to apply the selected function to a selected object, wherein the selected object is an object included within an electronic document displayed on said client system and ~~identified~~ selected by the user;

receive the selected object and the selected function from said client system;

process the selected object by applying the at least two separate processing requirements to apply ~~applying~~ the selected function to the selected object to generate a processed object the process ~~further including~~ comprising:

retrieve~~retrieving~~ from the database the at least one URL and the computer-implemented command associated with the selected function;

execute~~executing~~ a first one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command using the selected object to generate ~~the~~ a first processed object;

transmit~~transmitting~~ the first processed object from said server system to at least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one retrieved URL;

executing a second one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command based on the selected object to generate a second processed object;

transmitting the second processed object from the server system to the least one remote vendor web server

receive~~ ~~receiving a processing result from the at least one remote vendor web server at said server system, the processing result generated by the at

least one remote vendor web server based on the combination of the first and second processed ~~object~~objects and including at least a resulting web page;

determine whether further processing of each process result is necessary to complete the selected function; and

transmit at least one of each process result and another output to said client system.

11. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said client system configured to:

process the at least one of the resulting web page and other output; and

prompt the user to select a command to perform on the resulting web page.

12. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said client system is configured to apply a text-grabbing algorithm to select the object.

13. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said client system is configured to display a function menu on said user interface in response to a command from at least one of a mouse, a keyboard, a track-ball, a joystick, a digitizing pad, a touch screen, a voice activation device, and any input device connected to said client system.

14. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said client system further comprises at least one of a cell phone, a computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), and a television.

15. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said server system is further configured to:

process the selected object using optical character recognition (OCR);

extract text from the selected object using OCR; and

process at least a portion of the extracted text by applying the selected function.

16. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said server system is further configured to enable the user to designate a first web site as a target web site for a first function included within the function menu, and associate a first computer-implemented command with the first function executable using the first web site, the first computer-implemented command formatted by the user to perform a purchasing function at the target web site.

17. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said server system is further configured to enable the user to customize the function menu by selecting each function included within the function menu.

18. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said server system is further configured to:

apply the user preference information to the selected object, wherein the user preference information includes a first purchasing function associated with a first purchasing command and a plurality of URLs, the first purchasing command formatted to purchase an item corresponding to the selected object based on a purchase price for the item; and

wherein at least one of the first and second processing requirements comprises:

~~communicate~~ communicating with a vendor web server corresponding to each of the plurality of URLs;

~~receive~~receiving a processing result from each of said vendor web servers;

~~process~~processing each of the processing results; and

~~transmit~~transmitting at least one resulting web page and other output to said client system based on the processing results.

19. (currently amended) A ~~computer program comprising a~~ non-transitory computer readable medium having embodied thereon computer-executable instructions for retrieving

information using a server system coupled to a client system, a database, and a remote vendor web server, the client system including a user interface, said computer-executable instructions cause the server system to:

store user preference information in the database including a list of functions defined by a user of the client system for inclusion within a function menu, wherein each function is associated by the user with at least one universal resource locator (URL) and a computer-implemented command for performing the associated function, wherein the computer-implemented command is configured by the user to perform the associated function at the remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one associated URL; and

wherein the computer-implemented command comprises at least two separate processing requirements to perform the associated function;

prompt the user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on the user interface;

display the function menu on the user interface to prompt the user to select a desired function from the list of user-defined functions included within the function menu to apply the selected function to ~~a~~the user selected object;

receive the selected object and the selected function from the client system;

process the selected object by sequentially applying the at least two separate processing requirements to apply~~applying~~ the selected function to the selected object to generate a processed object, the process ~~further includes~~comprising:

retrieving from the database the at least one URL and the computer-implemented command associated with the selected function;

executing a first one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command using the selected object to generate ~~the~~ a first processed object;

transmitting the first processed object from the server system to the remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one retrieved URL;

executing a second one of the processing requirements of the retrieved computer-implemented command based on the selected object to generate a second processed object;

transmitting the second processed object from the server system to at least one remote vendor web server corresponding to the at least one retrieved URL;

receiving a processing result from the remote vendor web server at the server system, the processing result generated by the remote vendor web server based on the combination of the first and second processed objectobjects and including at least a resulting web page;

determinesdetermining whether further processing of each process result is necessary to complete the selected function; and

transmitstransmitting at least one of each process result and another output to the client system.

20. (currently amended) A computer program non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that:

processes at the client system the at least one of the resulting web page and other output; and

prompts the user to select a command to perform on the resulting web page.

21. (currently amended) A computer program non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that:

processes at the client system the selected object using optical character recognition (OCR);

extracts text from the selected object using OCR; and

transmits at least a portion of the extracted text from the client system to the server system for further processing.

22. (currently amended) A ~~computer program~~ non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that utilizes a text-grabbing algorithm to select the object.

23. (currently amended) A ~~computer program~~ non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that enables the user to designate a first web site as a target web site for a first function included within the function menu, and associate a first computer-implemented command with the first function executable using the first web site, the first computer-implemented command formatted by the user of the at least one client system to perform a purchasing function at the target web site.

24. (currently amended) A ~~computer program~~ non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that enables the user to customize the function menu by selecting each function included within the function menu.

25. (currently amended) A ~~computer program~~ non-transitory computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising a code segment that:

applies the user preference information to the selected object, wherein the user preference information includes a first purchasing function associated with a first purchasing command and a plurality of URLs, the first purchasing command formatted to purchase an item corresponding to the selected object based on a purchase price for the item; and

wherein at least one of the first and second processing requirements comprises:

~~communicates~~communicating with a vendor web server corresponding to each of the plurality of URLs;

~~receives~~receiving a processing result from each of the vendor web servers;

processes~~processing~~ each of the results at the server system; and

~~transmits~~transmitting at least one resulting web page and other output to the client system.